

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 and 18-22 are presently active in this case. Claims 16 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-15, 18, and 20-22 have been allowed. Claims 2, 6, 8, 19, and 23 have been withdrawn from consideration. Withdrawn Claim 2, 6, 8, and 19 depend from allowed base Claim 1, and thus the Applicants request rejoinder and allowance of Claims 2, 6, 8, and 19.

The Applicants note that the outstanding Official Action cites Berthold et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,490,040, however, this reference was not listed on Form PTO-892. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request that this reference be listed on a Form PTO-892.

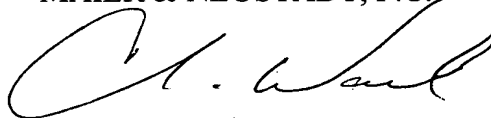
In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 64-32131 in view of Iacovangelo (U.S. Patent No. 6,261,694) and Berthold et al. Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 64-32131 in view of Wallace et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,944) and Berthold et al. Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 64-32131 in view of Wallace et al., Berthold et al., and Nakata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,286,134). Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 64-32131 in view of Iacovangelo, Berthold et al., and Nakata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,397,615). Claims 16 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering these rejections moot. Accordingly, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the obviousness rejections.

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Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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